To the editor: Aug. 13, 1992

The cover story of the Aug. 17th issue, "JFK: The Untold Story of the Warren Commission", is mistitled. It should be: "JFK: The Told and Re-told Apologia for the Warren Commission". The fact remains that the Warren Commission's own evidence is inconsistent with and contradictory to its conclusions. The very first critical book on the Warren Report, Harold Weisberg's Whitewash, proves this redundantly. Let me address myself to just a couple of the more egregious errors of fact and omission in this story.

The account of the pristine bullet (CE 399) given on p.30 is both false and misleading. All of the experts, when shown CE 399, testified quite emphatically that it was highly unlikely that that bullet could have done what Mr. Specter hypothesized it did. I challenge you to publish a photo (xerox copy enclosed) of one of the test bullets fired at Edgewood Arsenal through just the wrist of a cadaver (simulating just one of Connally's wounds) and compare it with CE 399. Moreover, your grossly flawed account ignores the fact that there were also bullet fragments in Gov. Connally's chest and one lodged in his thigh bone. Where could all of these fragments have come from the pristine bullet?

On p.37 two of the drawings that Dr. Humes had made at Arlen Specter's request, prior to Dr. Humes' testimony before the Commission, are reproduced. Both are knowingly false. The official death certificate locates that wound nearly 6 inches down on the President's back, "at the level of the third thoracic vertebra" (see skeletal chart enclosed). That is where the autopsy body chart locates it, as well as the bullet holes in the President's jacket and shirt. The track of that bullet through the President's body was never traced. And besides, how could a bullet striking this low, travelling on a downward trajectory, exit at the level of the Adam's apple, as the Warren Commission (and, I guess, U.S. News) would like us to believe?

Frankly, I am sick and tired of mainstream publications such as yours continuing the charade originally foisted on the American people by the Warren Commission. Whenever the opportunity arises I never hesitate to impress upon my students that it is a myth that we have a critical press in this country. Your story on the Warren Commission provides another in a long and sorry list of examples.

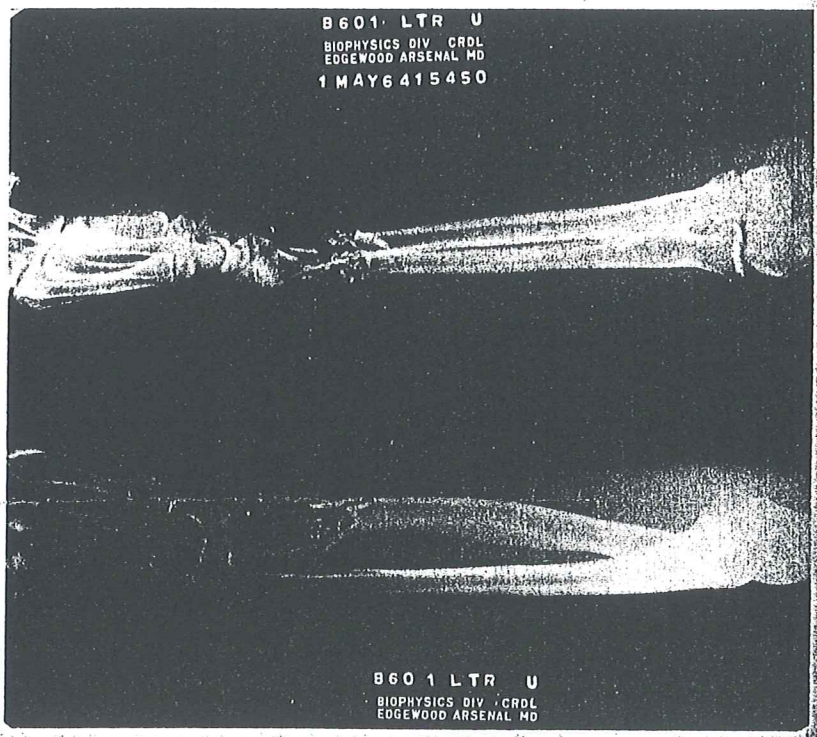
Sincerely,

Gerald Ginocchio

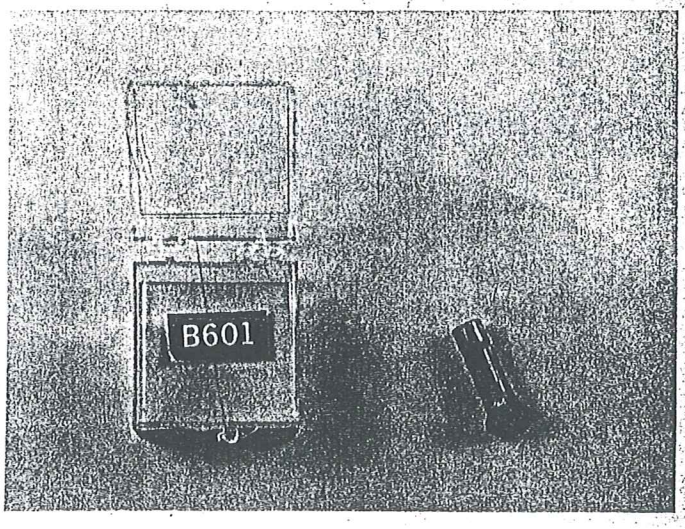
Dr. Gerald Ginocchio

P.S. For all of the "research" you did for this so-called "untold story", how could you have missed the significant discussions that took place on Jan. 22 and 27, 1964, when the Warren Commission met in secret session? Although I have little faith you will take the time to read the enclosed book which inccludes transcripts of those secret sessions and documents how they were obtained, I believe any objective appraisal of this and countless other pieces of evidence would prove, contrary to your story, that the Warren Commission never intended to do an objective, thorough investigation.

From. Vol. 17 Hearings and Exhibits

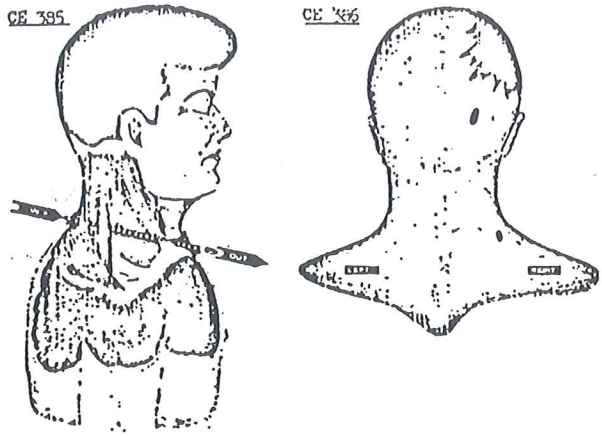


Commission Exhibit 855

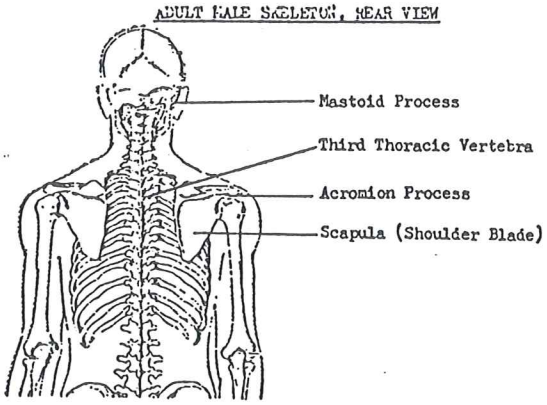


Commission Exhibit 856

From: Post Mortem
by Harold Weisberg



ADULT MALE SKELETON, REAR VIEW



Knowing the Commission would not put the autopsy pictures in its record, the doctors had drawings made to depict the President's wounds. CE's 385 and 386 were prepared in March 1964 under Humes' supervision. These illustrations deliberately misrepresent the back wound as a neck wound, a discrepancy of which the doctors and the Commissioners had to be aware. Burkley and Boswell had originally located the back wound at the level of the third thoracic vertebra, depicted on the skeletal chart here. The wound in the neck depicted in CE 386 is markedly higher than the third thoracic vertebra. The immediate significance of this information is that a bullet entering the back at the third thoracic vertebra and traveling at a downward angle could not emerge at the front of the throat, thus proving the autopsy report and the Warren Report wrong.

From: Presumed Guilty
by Howard Roffman

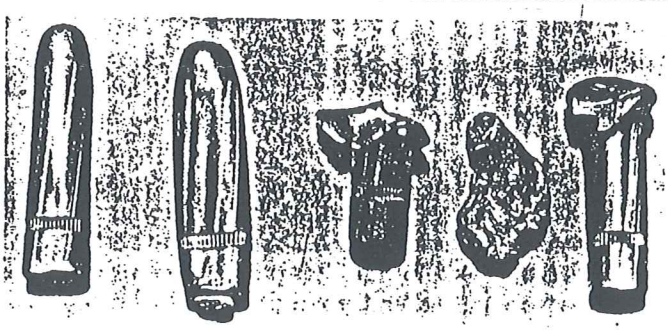


Fig. 4. CE 399 (far left) is beautifully preserved as compared to similar bullets fired from the Carcano: (from left to right) CE 853, fired through a goat's chest, CE 857 (in two pieces), fired into a human skull, and CE 856, fired into a human wrist. Not one of the three, each of which did less damage than the Commission attributes to 399, emerged as undistorted as 399. It is preposterous to assume that 399 could have struck so many obstructions and remained so undamaged. (This photograph was taken for Harold Weisberg by the National Archives.)